

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BY, LY

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL LIBYAN AID PLEDGES FOR BURUNDI

1. LIBYAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ABDUL MAJED, ALQUD, ARRIVED BUJUMBURA THIRD FEBRUARY FOR THIRD SESSION OF BURUNDI-LIBYAN MIXED COMMISSION. MEETING SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED DURING 1976, BUT WAS APPARENTLY DELAYED BY SOME LIBYAN PIQUE AT FORMER BURUNDI REGIME UNDER MICOMBERO. REMARKS BY VISITOR AND BY BURUNDIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER KAYIBIGI AT COMMISSION MEETING ON 4 FEBRUARY MADE NO ALLUSION TO PAST FRICTION, BUT STRESSED IDENTITY OF VIEWS.

2. MAIN PRACTICAL JOB IS TO ELABORATE STATUTE AND WORKING RULES OF MIXED BURUNDI-LIBYAN CORPORATION WHICH IS TO BE SET UP AS VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH LIBYA WILL PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HERE. LIBYA HAS PROMISED TWO MILLION DOLLARS (WHICH IS HALF OF CAPITAL ENVISAGED FOR NEW MIXED CORPORATION) FOR AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES, APPARENTLY INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUGAR PLANTATION AND EXPANSION OF AN IN-SECTICIDE PLANT.

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3. AT BURUNDI'S REQUEST, LIBYA IS UNDERTAKING A STUDY OF HOW IT MAY BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POTENTIAL CONSORTIUM FOR EXPLOITATION OF BURUNDI'S LARGE NICKEL DEPOSITS. (AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE LEADING CONSORTIUM ACTIVITIES, BUT THE WHOLE ENTERPRISE IS MARKING TIME UNTIL RESULTS OF MAJOR PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDIES CAN BE OBTAINED.) LIBYA WILL ALSO FURNISH BURUNDI

WITH A TRANSMITTER OF 100 KILOWATTS FOR THE STATE RADIO (WHICH SEEMS HIGHLY EXCESSIVE POWER FOR THIS TINY COUNTRY).

4. ON THE CULTURAL SIDE, 40,000 DOLLARS HAS BEEN SET ASIDE TO FINANCE LIBYAN TEACHERS HERE, AND TEN SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR BURUNDIAN STUDENTS IN LIBYA NEXT YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN TECHNICAL FIELDS. WORK MAY ALSO START SOON ON A LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER AND A LIBYAN-FINANCED ISLAMIC SCHOOL IN BUJUMBURA.

5. MINISTER ALQUD MADE ONE REFERENCE TO "DIRECT LIBYAN AID" TO BURUNDI, OUTSIDE OF PROJECT ASSISTANCE. NO DOUBT THIS REFERS TO OCCASIONAL PAST SHIPMENTS OF (USUALLY SOVIET MADE) ARMS AND TO SOME CASH GIFTS OF FUNDS FOR DIVERSE PURPOSES. PRESUMABLY, BURUNDI UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS LIBYAN LARGESSE, PLUS EVEN LARGER FUNDS FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, INVOLVE A STRICT QUID PRO QUO ON MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICAL ISSUES.
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